

REMARKS

At the outset, the courtesies extended by the Examiner in granting the 29 June 2005 interview, and the professionalism she demonstrated during that interview, are appreciatively noted. At the interview, the references cited by the Examiner in the 5 April 2005 Office Action were discussed in light of the clarifying amendments proposed to the Claims by the undersigned Attorney, as set forth herein.

Responsive to the 5 April 2005 Office Action and the discussions had at the interview, Claims 9, 14, and 15 are amended, and Claim 16 is newly-inserted for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment and insertion of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 9, 10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Ferenz reference. The Examiner also rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferenz in view of the Roberts, et al. reference. In setting forth the latter rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Ferenz fails to disclose the support member being a belt and cited Roberts, et al. for this feature. From this, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated a belt as a support member into the Ferenz device.

The newly-amended Claims 9 and 14 each now more clearly recite a hanger having among its combination of features a body defining a “first floor portion extending in substantially planar sloped manner from a second floor portion,” and a hanging member defining “a first interior surface extending in substantially planar sloped manner from a second interior surface.” The hanging member is so provided relative to the body that in one operating position, “said first interior surface of said hanging member makes substantially planar contact with said recess first floor portion,” as each of the Claims 9 and 14 also now more clearly recites.

Newly-inserted independent Claim 16, moreover, recites a hanger including among its combination of features a body which defines “a level floor portion and a sloped floor portion extending in substantially planar angled manner therefrom,” as well as a hanging member which defines “a level interior surface and a sloped interior surface extending in substantially planar angled manner therefrom.” As Claim 16 further recites among other things, the “sloped interior surface of said hanging member substantially oppos[es] said sloped floor portion of said body” to be “disposed in substantially planar engagement with said sloped floor portion” when in a certain operating position.

The full combinations of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicant’s pending Claims are nowhere disclosed by the cited references. Ferenz, for instance discloses merely a wall-mount floral hanger whose structural

features readily depart from those now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims. Although the hook member 44 of Ferenz is pivotally displaceable, it is mounted within a slit-like opening cut into a wall, and measures are amply taken to keep the resulting structure as slight, unobtrusive, and inconspicuous as possible. Accordingly, the hook member 44 is itself formed with a flat, sheet-like profile whose contact/engagement with the surrounding structure is limited to cross pins 40 and 42. This teaches clearly away from any hanger having an "interior surface of ... [a] hanging member for making "substantially planar" contact with a recessed floor portion of a body (as each of Applicant's pending independent Claims now more clearly recites), much less one in which the body defines a "substantially planar" sloped floor portion while the hanging member defines a "substantially planar" sloped interior surface (as the pending independent Claims also now more clearly recite).

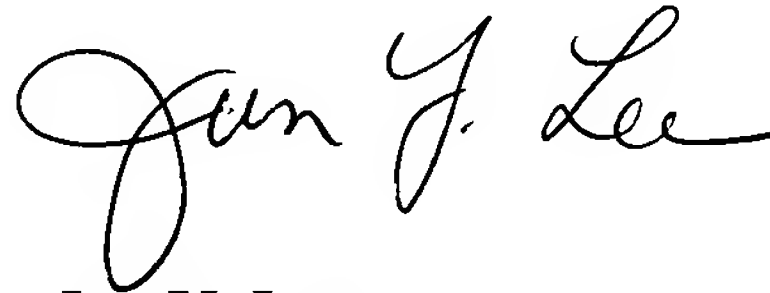
Given such contrary teachings of the primarily-cited Ferenz reference, the disclosures of the Roberts, et al. reference are found to be quite ineffectual to the present patentability analysis. Nonetheless, the Roberts, et al. support assembly was merely cited for its disclosure of a belt strap support member. The support assembly 10 held by such belt member forms a boom-type support structure from which further supporting structures are suspended. Such support assembly departs considerably both in structure and function from the hanger recited in Applicant's pending Claims.

Claim 15 is amended in form to incorporate terminology consistent with that of its newly-amended base claim.

It is respectfully submitted, that the cited Ferenz and Roberts, et al. references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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